



ASPIRA, Inc. OF NEW JERSEY

31ST ANNUAL LUNCHEON

Program

Welcome.....	Antonio C. Rivera Chairperson, Board of Directors
Opening Remarks.....	Carlos Valentin, Jr. Executive Director
Invocation.....	Pastor Carmelo Roman Templo Roca de mi Salvación

Lunch

Introduction of Master of Ceremonies.....	Carlos Valentin, Jr. Andrea Romero Anchor, Meteorologist WNJU's "Noticiero" Telemundo
ASPIRA Dance Troupe (1 st Performance).....	Andrea Romero
Keynote Speakers.....	Anibal Ramos Jr. Congressman Robert E. Andrews 1 st District of New Jersey
World Renown Boxing Referee Joe Cortez.....	Carlos Valentin Jr.
ASPIRA Dance Troupe (1 st Performance).....	Andrea Romero
Induction of ASPIRA Hall of Fame.....	Carlos Valentin, Jr. & Scholarship Presentations
Closing Remarks.....	Carlos Valentin, Jr.
Music by	Trio Cristal



ASPIRA, Inc. OF NEW JERSEY

ESSEX COUNTY CENTER

390 BROAD STREET, NEWARK, NEW JERSEY 07104 973-484-7554 FAX 973-482-7127

April 10, 2008

Dear Friends of ASPIRA;

Welcome to the 31st Annual ASPIRA Scholarship Luncheon. This year we celebrate our 40th year in New Jersey providing quality services to our youth! On behalf of the staff at ASPIRA, Inc. of New Jersey and the over 30,000 ASPIRANTES that have been developed throughout the past 40 years, Thank you for participating at our luncheon.

Your support for this luncheon will go a long way towards helping youth realize the American Dream. The scholarship money raised today will allow youth who otherwise may not have the resources to continue their education go on to attend college!

Unique to today's event is the induction of the very 1st ASPIRANTE Hall of Fame. This unprecedented honor will be bestowed upon people who have contributed to ASPIRA in a variety of ways while others are actual ASPIRANTES who serve as excellent examples for today's youth! One thing is clear, whether you have received our services directly, or contributed to ASPIRA's mission, you are an ASPIRANTE.

Sincerely,

Carlos Valentin Jr.
Executive Director



ASPIRA, Inc. OF NEW JERSEY

EXECUTIVE OFFICE
390 BROAD STREET, NEWARK, NEW JERSEY 07104 973-484-7554 FAX 973-484-0184

April 12, 2008

Dear Friends, Students and ASPIRA Supporters:

On behalf of the Board of Directors, our resilient children and youth, and the model staff of the ASPIRA family, I thank you for your participation in ASPIRA's 31st Annual Luncheon and for your continued support throughout the many years.

Your presence here today is evidence of your commitment to changing the lives of the many children and youth at-risk in the state of New Jersey. It is also a sign of the faith you have placed in ASPIRA to carry out its mission to develop leadership through education. I thank you for both your commitment and your faith.

This year is a very exciting year for ASPIRA because we have welcomed a new addition to the Aspira family, Mr. Carlos Valentin, Jr. Mr. Valentin brings a wealth of experience, energy, enthusiasm and a progressive vision for the future of ASPIRA and the community we serve.

As a valuable member of the Aspira family, I ask for your continued support as we forge ahead with a new vision and strategic plan. Your insight and counsel will be instrumental in helping us elevate the level of service to the community.

Again, I thank you for joining us today as we honor our youth and supporters.

Sincerely,



Antonio Rivera, Chair
Board of Directors

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Joe Cortez was Born and raised in Spanish Harlem New York. Joe had a great amateur boxing career, winning 6 various Golden Gloves tournaments from 1960 to 1962. In 1963, at the age of eighteen, he jumped into the professional boxing ranks. Cortez had a record of eighteen wins and one defeat as a professional boxer. He retired from boxing after only nineteen professional fights.

1. Beginning in the early 1970s, Joe Cortez started working as a referee. During the 1980s, he took on the responsibility to referee some important fights.

At the dawn of the 21st Century, Cortez became one of Nevada and New York's preferred boxing referees for world title fights. He has refereed over 175 world title bouts. Some of which include these great legends, the first Oscar De La Hoya-Julio Cesar Chavez meeting, the infamous first and third fight between Evander Holyfield and Riddick Bow,Sugar Ray Leonard, Larry Holmes, Roberto Duran, Mike Tyson, George Foreman, and Manny Pacquiao just to name a few.

Because of his outstanding ring mechanics and expertise in the field of boxing, he landed roles in such major films as "Play It To The Bone" starring Antonio Banderas and Woody Harrilson, "I Spy" With Eddie Murphy and most recently "Rocky Balboa" starring Sylvester Stallone

Cortez still referees major boxing events around the world. His infamous catch phrased during pre-fight instructions, "(I am) fair but firm!" (also said as "I'm fair but I'm firm!") is now a copyrighted trademark.

Cortez also helps at risk kids by visiting after school programs and various children's organizations. Relating to kids on a personal level, he shares with them, his enthusiasm for the sport of boxing. He encourages them to stay in school and that they too can overcome any challenge in life just as he overcame such challenges as a child. . He also gives children boxing instructions and has a web site "fairbutfirm.com" that he gives lessons globally on how to become a referee. It is the first and only school for referees.

He is now also CEO of Dream Network TV which offers such programs as "Kids In Production" and the "MARK" (Mentoring At Risk Kids) Program.

Joe is a dedicated family man who has been married to his wife Sylvia for over 42 years. He has 3 daughters Cindy, Sandy, and Christine. Eleven years ago Joe's daughter Cindy suffered a tragic auto accident leaving her as a quadriplegic. Since then, Joe has become an advocate for stem cell research and has formed the Joe Cortez Family Foundation. Joe is known internationally not only for being one of the Greatest Referee's of our generation but for his dedication and commitment to help educate those individuals around the world for the betterment of their future.

Pitirre

Dance Group



The "Pitirre" is the symbol of ASPIRA and name of the Dance Group. A Small, fragile tropical bird found in Puerto Rico. The "Pitirre" is known for its agility, rapid flight and for its ability to outwit, tire and defeat much larger birds. I believe the Name "Pitirre" is a great fitting name for the Dance group. Our Youth will gain confidence in themselves, and will acquire the knowledge to develop leadership skills. Our Youth will express their talent, agility, rapid thinking, self confidence, and will grow stronger to outwit any obstacle in life. Our goals are for these young people to become productive citizens and return to their communities the benefits of their skills and leadership.

Alex Sánchez
ASPIRA Academic Advisor /
Choreographer of the "Pitirre Dance Group"

Dancers

Christopher Cancel
Eileen Marengo
Francisco Villanueva
Frankshuns Rodriguez
Leslie Mendez
Noel Villanueva
Ruth Solano
Tara Revollar
William Calle

Dance 1. Dramatic Dance - Mix of Acting and Dancing

Dance 2. Dominican Folklore - Mix of Palos with Tropical Rhythm



Congressman Rob Andrews

Serving in his 10th term in Congress, Congressman Rob Andrews is a leading voice in the nation for fiscal restraint, education and national defense and is the chairman of the Subcommittee on Health, Employment, Labor and Pensions (HELP). He represents the residents of the First Congressional District of New Jersey, which is comprised of Burlington, Camden and Gloucester Counties.

The Philadelphia Inquirer said that Congressman Andrews "is properly focused on fixing the looming fiscal disaster in Washington."

The New York Times has characterized Congressman Andrews as "fiscally conservative...and socially moderate."

In Washington, the Congressman has a reputation as a savvy legislator. He has authored two laws creating the Income Contingent Repayment Plan and Direct Student Loans, making higher education more affordable for millions of students since 1993. Rep. Andrews also wrote laws to lower mortgage costs for rural families, to protect the child visitation rights of grandparents, to provide health and pension benefits for employees of religious organizations, cut administrative costs for small businesses and to move more people from welfare to work.

Back home in New Jersey, the Congressman is a leading voice for ethics reform at all levels of government. He is also known for his attention to constituent service. He meets with thousands of constituents each year and has aided over 100,000 constituents since he took office. The Congressman was also instrumental in stopping a plan to dump VX nerve agent byproduct in the Delaware River, which would have seriously endangered the health and well-being of New Jersey's residents and environment.

Congressman Andrews has worked to secure federal defense funding to help create over 540 new high tech jobs in Camden and protect 4,700 good jobs at Lockheed Martin. He has worked with local fire departments to bring back over \$3 million in funding to purchase new equipment and aid in training those who work to keep the region safe. He has worked with local leaders to obtain federal funding to extend the hours of operation of the Veteran's Health Clinic in Turnersville so it is open to serve the region's veterans five full days a week.

Rep. Andrews has served for his entire Congressional career on the Education and Labor Committee. As the Chairman of the HELP Subcommittee, he has responsibility for the health insurance, pension and labor laws of the nation. He has also been appointed to the House Budget Committee, which has the responsibility to ensure fiscal responsibility in the federal budget.

Rep. Andrews also serves on the House Armed Services Committee. He is a member of the Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee, which provides high level Congressional oversight on national security issues, and is responsible for investigating the serious mistakes made in Iraq.

Congressman Andrews is the son and grandson of shipyard workers and was the first in his family to attend college. He graduated summa cum laude from Bucknell University, where he also was Phi Beta Kappa. He received his law degree from Cornell University, where he was on the Board of Editors of the Cornell Law Review. Before coming to Congress, he was an attorney and an adjunct professor at the Rutgers University School of Law. He also served as freeholder director of Camden County, the highest elected office in county government.

Congressman Rob Andrews is 50 years old and is married to Camille Spinello Andrews, Member of the faculty at Rutgers School of Law in Camden and Managing Director at Context Capital Partners. The Andrews have two daughters, Jackie, 15, and Josie, 13.

The Andrews family lives in Haddon Heights. He does not keep an apartment in Washington, D.C. but instead commutes each day by train to be closer to his family and constituents.



ASPIRA, Inc. OF NEW JERSEY

31ST ANNUAL LUNCHEON Scholarship Award Winners

Claudia Jimenez	Technology High School	Newark, New Jersey
Charlie D. Castilla,	Vineland High School	Vineland, New Jersey
Joey Contreras	Vineland High School	Vineland, New Jersey
Oscar Sanchez	Long Branch High School	Long Branch, New Jersey
Karen Flores	John F. Kennedy High School	Paterson, New Jersey
Loribelle Lapaix	Pleasantville High School	Pleasantville, New Jersey
Tania Guaman	Barringer High School	Newark, New Jersey
Milghian Velasquez	James J. Ferris High School	Jersey City, New Jersey
Jcimy Hirujo	William L. Dickinson High School	Jersey City, New Jersey
Joanna Calderon	Long Branch High School	Long Branch, New Jersey
Christopher Cancel	Barringer High School	Newark, New Jersey
Mariana Oliveira	Long Branch High School	Long Branch, New Jersey

1st Annual ASPIRA Hall of Fame Inductees Class of 2008

Stephen A. Aduato.....Founder & Executive Director of the North Ward Center
Joseph Ginarte.....Attorney
Maria Vizcarrondo.....Director of Family and Child Well Being
Dr. Thomas Ortiz.....Physician Forest Hill Healthcare Associates
Anibal Ramos Jr.....North Ward City Councilman
Angie Armand.....Director Center for Hispanic Policy State of NJ
Carmen Ruiz.....Principal Barringer High School

Guest Inductee



ANDREA ROMERO, METEOROLOGIST, WNJU

Andrea Romero is the weekday meteorologist for WNJU Telemundo 47. She delivers weather reports for the station's "Noticiero 47 at 6 & 11 p.m." newscasts.

Romero joined WNJU in 1995 as assignment desk editor and was promoted to special projects producer two years later. In 1997 she started to file special reports for the weekly segment "The Future Now" and served as a substitute meteorologist for the station's various newscasts. Prior to WNJU, Romero worked as a production assistant for WXTV Univision 41 "Noticias a las 6 p.m." in 1994.

In 1999, Romero was nominated for three Emmy Awards, taking home the statuette in the category of best research for the piece "Legacy of Valor," a history of Hispanic presence and achievement in the United States military. She is also a member of the Society of Professional Journalists.

Romero earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from New York University and is a graduate of the Masters Broadcast Meteorology Program at Mississippi State University.

A native New Yorker, Romero is married and has two children.



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Congratulations and best wishes to Carlos Valentin, Jr,
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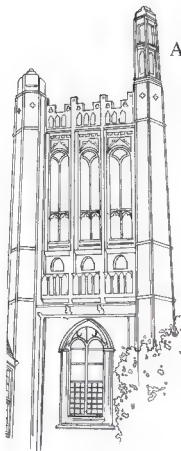
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and

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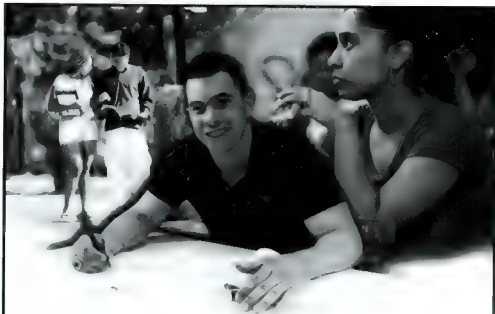
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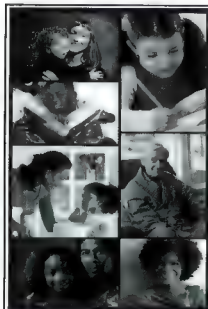
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